

REMARKS

Claims 60-79 are pending in the above-identified application. In the non-final Office Action dated September 21, 2007, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 60-66, 68-76, 78 and 79 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Richards* (U.S. 6,292,810) in view of *Horie, et al.* (U.S. 6,487,597) ("Horie").
- B.) Objected to claims 67 and 77.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and address the Examiner's disposition below.

- A.) Rejection of claims 60-66, 68-76, 78 and 79 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Richards (U.S. 6,292,810) in view of Horie, et al. (U.S. 6,487,597) ("Horie"):

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 67 and 77.

Claim 60 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 65-67.

Claim 68 has been amended to depend from claim 60.

Claim 70 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 75-77.

Claim 78 has been amended to depend from claim 70

Therefore, claims 60-64, 68-74, 78, and 79 are allowable.

Claims 65-67 and 75-77 have been canceled.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

- B.) Objection to claims 67 and 77:

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 67 and 77.

Claim 60 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 65-67.

Claim 70 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 75-77.

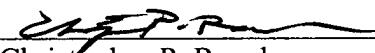
Therefore, independent claims 60 and 70, as amended, are allowable.

Claims 67 and 77 have been canceled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 60-64, 68-74, 78, and 79 are allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Christopher P. Rauch
Registration No. 45,034

Customer No. 58328
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000